

Soldiers

September 2007
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The Official U.S. Army Magazine

Training for *Rapid Rescues*



Disaster at Eagle Pass



Building Partnerships



Earning the Badge

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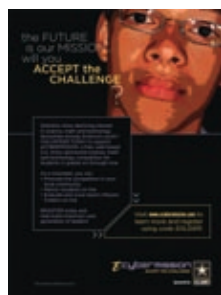
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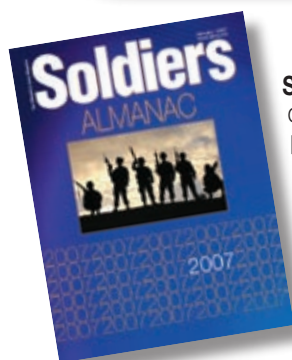
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FALL RIDING

As fall days become shorter, motorcycle riders spend more of their riding time during dusk and in the dark. Here are some safety tips:

- Remember, as visibility decreases at dusk and after sunset, other motorists have difficulty seeing riders.
- Helmets with a visor or tented shield help reduce glare, but riders may still have problems seeing on-coming traffic.
- The ideal position for a rider to be most visible is in their own lane of travel.
- Riders should always assume that a vehicle is going to pull out in front of them and adjust their speed and position accordingly.
- Wet leaves reduces traction and pose risks to riders. Cognizant riders should adjust speed on curves and look well ahead to choose the best path to go around a hazard.



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**ARMY SAFE
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Training for Rapid Reaction

Story by Spc. Nathan Hoskins

WITH so many aircraft crossing the skies over Baghdad, it's no doubt reassuring to their crews that a quick-reaction force from the 1st Cavalry Division stands ready to spring into action if an aircraft goes down.

While the Division Rapid-Reaction Force primarily responds to downed aircraft incidents, it also reacts to events within the Multi-National Force-Iraq area, when other units cannot respond in less than an hour, said Capt. Jay King, an AH-64D Apache pilot and commander of the division's Headquarters and HQs Company, 1st Air Cav. Brigade.

Soldiers who come to Iraq as part of the DRRF undergo a type of on-the-job training when they link up with the 1st ACB, he said.

Every time a new group of Soldiers joins the Division Rapid Reaction Force, Capt. King has to ensure they get the training needed to prepare them for the job, he said.

The training is very thorough. The Soldiers of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Infantry Div., for example, are learning about the various types of helicopters in 1st ACB's inventory, said 1st Lt. Burke Manwaring, a 1st Bn. platoon leader.

"They are familiarized with all

of the air cavalry brigade's assets, including the AH-64 Apache, the UH-60 Black Hawk and the CH-47 Chinook," said Capt. King.

Learning about each type of aircraft also means learning how to safely extract pilots from those aircraft and shut each of the aircraft down, said 1st Lt. Manwaring.

The DRRF team also learns how to use the Apache attack helicopter to its best advantage, Capt. King said.

DRRF members learn what they need to know through manuals and hands-on operations, he added.

Because DRRF Soldiers will typically be flown to a crash site by Black Hawk, Soldiers from the 1st Bn., 37th FA Regt., also undergo "cold-load" training, Capt. King said.

Also known as static load, it's the practicing of air-assault operations, in which the Soldiers get on and off a Black Hawk or Chinook as quickly as possible while the aircraft sits on the flight line, he said.

Air assault is one of the major skills taught to prospective DRRF-member Soldiers, said Capt. King.

"They're supposed to come to us already trained in all infantry tactics," Capt. King said of the new additions

to the DRRF.

"This is our second time doing static-load training, so we've got it down pretty well, we're just getting the speed and efficiency up," added 1st Lt. Manwaring.

After learning about each aircraft and becoming proficient at quickly entering and exiting them, the new crop of prospective DRRF Soldiers had one last training challenge — a mission-



▲ Soldiers of Btry. C leap from a Black Hawk during an air-assault training exercise. Rapid movement by helicopter is a DRRF staple.

Spc. Nathan Hoskins is assigned to the 1st Air Cavalry Brigade Public Affairs Office.

Rapid Rescues

Soldiers of Battery C, 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, prepare to board an incoming UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter after completing an air-assault training exercise at Camp Taji, Iraq.

readiness exercise, said Capt. King.

In the exercise, the Soldiers air assaulted onto an objective.

"Very few of us have actually been on a combat air-assault mission," 1st Lt. Manwaring said. "We've been doing raids and things like that for a year. Now, instead of jumping out of a Humvee, we're jumping out of a helicopter."

During this part of the exercise, the DRRF responded to a simulated downed

aircraft. Soldiers of 1st Bn., 37th FA Regt., communicated continuously with the Apache helicopter crews, he said.

"Talking to the Apache pilots on the radio is the easiest part. They just want to hear the layman's perspective of what's going on," said 1st Lt. Manwaring.

After landing in the general area of the downed aircraft, the DRRF team quickly set up a perimeter and focused on extracting the pilots and providing medical care.


When the exercise was over, the Soldiers critiqued themselves to identify areas of weakness, in order to focus

on improving in those areas and being ready for a real event, Capt. King said.

The DRRF Soldiers also underwent nighttime training, to ensure they're able to conduct air-assault operations while wearing night-vision equipment, he said.

Once a platoon finishes its brief rotation through the DRRF, another platoon will undergo similar training, Capt. King said.

"We don't just get infantrymen, we also get artillerymen. We're teaching a large demographic, across the Army, to be air-assault capable," he said.

At the time this article was written, the 1st ACB members had trained seven platoons of DRRF Soldiers, Capt. King said. 



▲ A Btry. C medic begins to extract an "injured" aircrew member from his AH-64 Apache helicopter during a training exercise.



▲ Spc. Thomas Quinn stands guard as an AH-64 Apache helicopter takes off after a downed aircraft training mission.

Introducing New Strykers to Combat

By Sgt. Thomas L. Day

WHEN Soldiers of the Fort Lewis, Wash.-based 2nd Infantry Division's 4th Battalion, 9th Inf. Regiment, rolled into Iraq, recently, they went in with the newest edition of the Stryker vehicle, testing the vehicle for the first time in combat, officials said.

Earlier, during the Soldiers' training on the new Strykers at Kuwait's Udairi Range, Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb, Third Army/U.S. Army Central commanding general, visited the troops.

Lt. Gen. Whitcomb saw armored vehicles that test the bounds of imagination, "so much so that 2nd Inf. Div. commanders talk about their Strykers as if they were characters in a science-fiction film," he said.


"What we're doing here is making sure the computer

solutions match up with the ballistics of the Stryker's barrel," said Maj. Keith Markham, the unit's executive officer, as his Soldiers test-fired the vehicles' guns.

The Strykers use digital targeting to measure wind factors, the cant of the vehicle and barometric pressure. The newest edition includes a mounted mobile gun system that allows for unprecedented firing capability, Maj. Markham said.

The MGS adds a 105-mm cannon, a mounted M-240C machine gun and a pedestal-mounted, M-2 .50-cal. machine gun to the four-year-old Stryker.

The test fires at the Udairi Range marked the first time the new unit had fired with live, explosive rounds.

"This is an infantry-support vehicle," said Sgt. 1st Class John Abronski, a 4th Bn. platoon sergeant. "If I was looking down this barrel, I'd consider it a deterrent." 

Sgt. Thomas L. Day is with the 40th Public Affairs Detachment.



Staff Sgt. Christopher Rentzel (left) and Pfc. Zachary Purrington, both of the 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, treat a simulated casualty during training for the division's newest Stryker brigade.

In addition to two machine guns, the Stryker MGS carries a pedestal-mounted 105mm main gun, seen here firing during training.



BOLSTERING STRYKER SKILLS

Story by Mr. Don Kramer

IN March the 5th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, at Fort Lewis, Wash., officially began its combat training as the division's newest Stryker brigade.

Members of the brigade's 2nd Battalion, 1st Inf. Regiment, began by honing their rifle-marksanship and AT-4 anti-tank skills.

"This is the first time we've come together to train as a battalion," said Staff Sgt. Stewart Goodman, the battalion sniper-squad leader and AT-4 range-safety officer.

Until March the unit focused on such in-

dividual skills as driver training and radio communications, Staff Sgt. Goodman said. "Now, we're moving into individual marksmanship. As time moves on, we'll start forming buddy teams."

Most of the Soldiers undergoing training wore private's stripes.

"More than 40 percent of our Soldiers are right out of basic training," said 2nd Lt. Nick Tallant.

"We're weaving in some more advanced firing positions into the training as we go along, but we're starting with the basics."

"For the next three to four weeks, all the battalions are starting to train on basic marksmanship skills," said 2nd Bn. Commander Lt. Col. Richard

Mr. Don Kramer works for the "Northwest Guardian" at Fort Lewis, Wash.

Focus on Iraq

Demaree. "This allowed the unit to maximize its training time even though it still had only a limited number of vehicles.

"I like standing up a unit from scratch," Lt. Col. Demaree said, "because there are no unit cultures to get in the way of doing what we have to do. There are no 'This-is-the-way-we've-always-done-it' attitudes. What I've told my Soldiers is that this is their opportunity to take all the things they didn't like at their old duty stations and leave them there. In the end, I think we'll truly be able to call this organization our own."

Some 460 Soldiers are assigned to the unit, with 250 to 300 coming straight from basic and advanced individual training, Lt. Col. Demaree said.

"All of my Soldiers are excited about being in the Army, being at Fort Lewis in a Stryker brigade, and doing something to support their country in a time of war," he continued.

"It's great here on Fort Lewis," Lt. Col. Demaree said. "Of the seven SBCTs, four have stood up here, and the other three have all come here to train. So Fort Lewis and I Corps know the business of producing a SBCT and have done a good job of facilitating the communication between the SBCTs here."

Focusing their current training on their role as part of the 2nd Inf. Div. team, the 2nd Bn. staff and commanders have struck up a relationship with another of the division's SBCTs already deployed to the Middle East.

"We've started informal relationships with 2nd Bn., 23rd Inf. Regt., somewhere in Iraq or Kuwait," said Lt. Col. Demaree, "and we'll maintain contact throughout their deployment, not only to ask them questions about what they're learning in combat, but also anything else they learned in their preparation for war. We're not the first ones to do this. Six other SBCTs have gone before. This isn't like it's new to Fort Lewis or the Army." ■



▲ A Soldier from 2nd Battalion, 1st Infantry Regiment, fires an AT-4 missile during work-up training. The newest Stryker brigade will ultimately deploy to Iraq, as its predecessors have before it.



▲ Crewmembers of a Navy MH-53E Sea Stallion helicopter load cargo at an airfield in Iraq. The work of the joint-service CENTCOM DDOC speeds the movement of materiel throughout the theater.

RESPONSIBLE for coordinating the transportation of supplies, equipment and personnel throughout the Third Army/U.S. Army Central theater of operations, members of the CENTCOM Deployment and Distribution Operations Center use various methods to accomplish what some military officials jokingly call "Mission Impossible."

Staff Sgt. Houston F. White Jr. is assigned to the Third Army/U.S. Army Central Public Affairs Office.

NO IMPO

Separated into subdivisions that match land, sea and air assets with theater requirements, operations center personnel are adept at overcoming virtually any obstacle, said Air Force Master Sgt. David Oates, CDDOC's airlift validator.

"Some of the problems we run into include not having the whole picture of what we want to do, and the weather factor plays into our operations," he added. "In the first case we ask questions to get a clearer picture of what is going on, and since we can't change the weather, we simply have to adapt by shuffling and reprioritizing our plans."

By fielding a joint military staff that uses the knowledge and specialized talents of each of the four major services, CDDOC can stay flexible and meet requirements, said Marine Lt. Col. James M. Blair, CDDOC's requirements chief.

"We have more than 50 personnel from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps, all serving joint assignments, and each of whom possesses a broad range of experiences," said Lt. Col. Blair.

Teamwork plays an integral part in making such a challenging mission work, he added, noting that the CDDOC's cohesion is tied directly to the detailed training program each

person receives throughout his tenure with the unit.


According to Lt. Col. Kevin LaFrance, the organization's Army senior sustainment officer, the diversity that exists within CDDOC is a huge advantage.

The people who contribute to the mission take pride in the results of their efforts, said Master Sgt. Oates. "It's good to know that we're supporting both the warfighter and humanitarian missions in this part of the world.

"I feel a lot of personal satisfaction knowing that we not only deliver

supplies and equipment to the guys on the battlefield, but we are also sending personnel back home to their families on rest-and-relaxation trips," he added.

Whether handling the routine passage of personnel in and out of theater or undertaking a major force rotation, the CDDOC mission remains the same, Lt. Col. Blair said.

"Our job is to develop a transport plan with minimal delays for the customer. So, in a way, CDDOC is like a travel agent. We'll book you door-to-door and get you where you need to go," he said. 

Capt. Michael Wallace



► A convoy of armored vehicles and Humvees makes its way through Kuwait on the way to Iraq. Members of the CDDOC link land, sea and air assets to seamlessly move vital equipment, supplies and people.

SSIBLE MISSIONS

By Staff Sgt. Houston F. White Jr

Underwater Engineers

Story by Staff Sgt. Patrick N. Moes, USAF

MANY engineers work with heavy construction equipment to build new schools in Iraq or perform demolition work in Afghanistan.

But a group of Hawaii-based Soldiers now in Kuwait to support Third Army/U.S. Army Central, views the world of engineering from quite a different angle — from beneath the murky waters of the Persian Gulf.

For these engineer divers the air tanks on their backs are a mode of transportation, said Capt. Dan Curtin, commander of the 7th Engineer Dive Team.

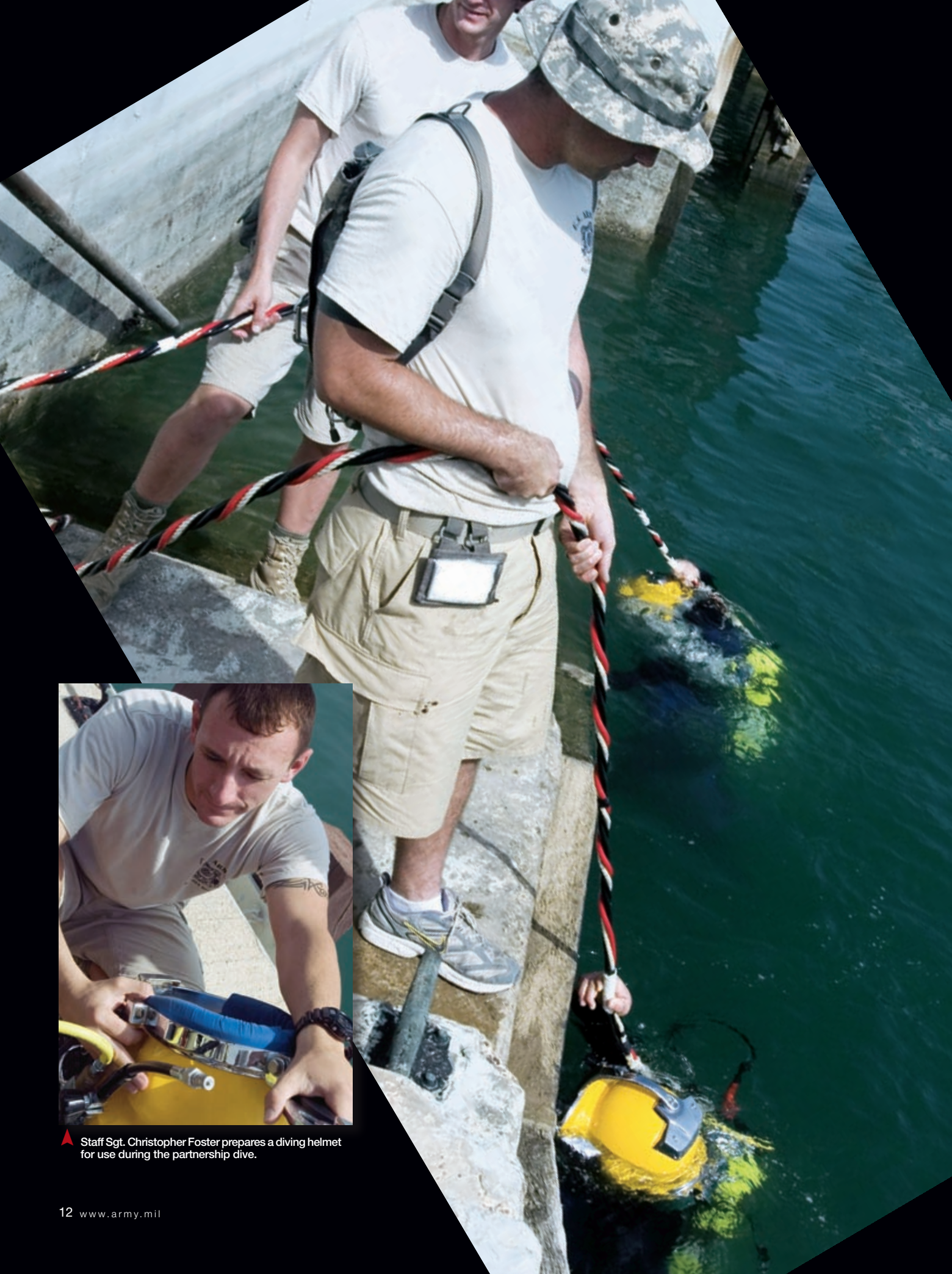
“Army engineer divers are all engineers. We do all engineer tasks,” he said, “we just do them in the water.

Staff Sgt. Patrick N. Moes is assigned to the public affairs office of the U.S. Air Force's 386th Air Expeditionary Wing.



(Above) Soldier-divers suit up before a partnership dive at a harbor in Kuwait. (Main photo) A team member keeps an eye on submerged divers' safety lines.





▲ Staff Sgt. Christopher Foster prepares a diving helmet for use during the partnership dive.

➤ Sgt. Nathan Harvey helps Spc. Jonathan Luchak out of the water following the dive.

◀ Team members keep the safety lines straight as the divers prepare to submerge.

It's a whole different world."

The 7th Engr. Dive Team's mission includes providing underwater engineering support to all countries in Third Army's area of responsibility; diagnosis and treatment of diving diseases and disorders; and port opening and harbor-clearance operations, said Capt. Curtin.

"These men are probably trained in more individual engineer tasks than non-diving engineers," he said.

Some of their expertise comes from working with divers from different services and nationalities.

Recently, dive team Soldiers worked with Navy explosive ordnance disposal divers and divers from the French navy, to see how they operate.

One of the main things a Soldier gleans from participating in this type of training is a better understanding of his own unit's capabilities, compared to those of other services and units, said team member Sgt. Nathan Haney.

The networking aspect of the training is important, too. "Divers from other countries and other services learn what we can do. If they've got something that they can't handle, they'll know who to call," he said.

The training opportunities are not all work, though. The divers get the chance to share dive stories and compare experiences.



"It's always a good time," Sgt. Haney said. "We're always trading patches and shirts with our allies and building camaraderie."

Whether they're exchanging T-shirts with members of foreign militaries or doing partnership dives,

a common thread remains: "It doesn't matter what country we're diving for, we're diving, and we're in the military," Sgt. Haney said. Cooperation and understanding fall easily in place based on the commonalities, he added. 📷

A Clinic for Karkh

Story by Sgt. Robert Yde

AFTER establishing a combat outpost in Baghdad's Karkh District, Soldiers from the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team decided they needed to do something to reach out to the surrounding community, to let residents know the brigade is there to help them.

Soldiers from the 1st Squadron,

Sgt. Robert Yde is assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office.

14th Cav. Regiment, first conducted a medical mission in an abandoned building next to the outpost.

"We want to establish a good relationship with the people of this community, so that they know we're close by," said Maj. Elvis Coronado, the unit's operations officer.

A civil-affairs team from the Fort Bragg, N.C.-based Company B, 97th CA Battalion, working with Task Force 1-14 Cav., provided logistical support for the medical mission.

"Basically, what we do is civil reconnaissance for the commander in the area, and we come in and assess the infrastructure and security," said Sgt. 1st Class Charles Burns, the team sergeant.

"This area doesn't have a clinic. So we began by offering medical services out of the empty building next to our outpost."

Sgt. 1st Class Burns, who often meets with local leaders, knew medical assistance was something the local people desperately needed — their leaders had specifically requested such assistance.

Having conducted similar operations with his team numerous times over the past two years in Africa, Afghanistan and Iraq, Sgt. 1st Class Burns was quickly able to procure the medicine, enlist the help of required personnel and organize the event.

Once participants arrived at the selected site for the operation, a makeshift doctors' office with two treatment rooms — one for men, one for women and children — was



◀ Lt. Col. Margret Merino, the surgeon for the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team, examines a woman's throat during the medical mission.



quickly set up and stocked with medicine that had been purchased from the local economy.

"Most of the time we try to purchase medicine locally; that way the money goes back into the community and the medicine isn't something that's foreign to the people," Sgt. 1st Class Burns said.

On hand to assist the patients were the brigade's surgeon, Lt. Col. Margret Merino, and the task force surgeon, Maj. Isaac Johnson, both of whom were assisted by medics.

According to Maj. Johnson, many of the patients he treated suffered from similar ailments.

"We definitely saw a lot of cases of vitamin deficiencies, malnutrition,

worm infestations of the abdomen, rashes and, among the children, a lot of ear infections," he said.

Most of the medicines the Soldiers distributed were basic medications of the type given out during sick call, but many of the people also brought prescriptions with them that

they hoped could be filled, Maj. Johnson said.

"The people here need some type of pharmacy," Lt. Col. Merino said.

She and Maj. Johnson, who were the only doctors on hand for the mission, both hope to provide

medical services to Iraqis in the area again soon, perhaps with help from local doctors.


"There are some very good physi-

▲ An Iraqi soldier takes the names of a man and his two children before they go in to see a physician during the medical mission.

cians in this area who have expressed a desire to help us out and actually provide the care," Lt. Col. Merino said. Additionally, plans call for establishment of a permanent clinic in the area.

"There's an empty building, and these doctors have a desire to work there," she said. "It would be a very nice practice with five different types of sub-specialty doctors, and we're going to try really hard to get that open for the local people."

During the three hours that the medical station was set up, nearly 200 people were treated, Lt. Col. Merino said.

"I certainly enjoy doing this, but I think it is really important that we start letting the Iraqi doctors be on the front lines," she said. 

During the three hours that the medical station was in operation, the Soldiers provided nearly 200 people with much-needed care.



The National Guard in Action

Disaster at Eag



Eagle Pass

Story by 2nd Lt. Adam Musil Photo by Sgt. Mark Albright



A stuffed bear lies amid the ruins of an elementary school destroyed by the tornado that ripped through Eagle Pass in April.

SEVERE weather slammed Eagle Pass, Texas, on April 24, as tornadoes moved into the town, obliterated an elementary school, destroyed properties and homes, and killed seven people.

In a response effort Governor Rick Perry termed “tremendous,” local and state agencies rushed to the scene to deliver aid and care for casualties. Among the responders was the Texas National Guard.

Many of the Guard Soldiers were stationed in Eagle Pass well before the storm. They were members of Operation Jump Start — part of the federal border-security mission.

Sgt. Levy Womble and Spc. Manuel Chavez were among those Soldiers. They’d been off duty at a restaurant when they saw emergency vehicles race by them toward the destroyed school. The two immediately went home to grab their uniforms.

When they arrived at Rosita Valley Elementary School, the facility looked like it had been hit by a wrecking ball. A tornado had strewn debris everywhere. Local responders were pulling bodies from the wreckage as family members of the dead and injured looked on in agony.

“We were putting the dead in body bags and carrying them out on stretchers,” Sgt. Womble said. “There was one child and two adults. When I arrived, two bodies were being moved off-site.”

By 8 a.m. the next day, 80 Guard

Soldiers from Operation Jump Start were on the scene.

“The hardest part for me is seeing the families who have either lost their loved ones or their homes,” Spc. Chavez said about the cleanup effort. “Seeing these families just makes me want to work a little bit harder.”


When the main body of first responders arrived, the families were moved to a safer location. Many stood behind barricades and lines of Soldiers, wondering what had become of their homes. To ease their uncertainty, officials allowed them access to their properties.

“I’m worried about what we’re going to do,” said Laura Garcia, a teacher at neighboring Rosita Valley Literacy Academy. The academy was completely destroyed.

“I have been trying to reach the children, but have been unable to. We have been visiting various shelters in the area looking for them.”

With seven people confirmed dead a day after the tornado hit — and the number of injured unknown — Gov. Perry called the devastation “stunning,” but said he was impressed with the response effort.

In a mere 12 hours, a virtual city of state and local responders had cropped up around the elementary school to secure the area.

The largest contingent of the Texas Guard had converged on Eagle Pass within hours after the storm. This contingent included Guard Soldiers from the 6th Civil Support Team and the the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability Team. 

2nd Lt. Adam Musil and Sgt. Mark Albright work in the Texas National Guard Public Affairs Office.

The Guard Looks to Africa

Story by Sgt. Jim Greenhill Photos by Heike Hasenauer

BOOSTED by the European success of the National Guard's State Partnership Program, Guard leaders gathered in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, in early May were looking southward — into Africa.

"We will see a growth in the number of state partners as U.S. Africa Command stands up," Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, said during the U.S. European Command Adjutants General State Partnership Program Conference.

AFRICOM is a new, unified, regional combatant command scheduled to activate by Sept. 30, 2008.

Sgt. Jim Greenhill is assigned to the National Guard Bureau Public Affairs Office in Arlington, Va.

EUCOM's responsibilities span 92 nations and include most of Africa.

Of the National Guard's 56 partnerships between U.S. states or territories and foreign countries, 26 fall within EUCOM's area of responsibility. And it was with EUCOM nations that the SPP started back in 1993, following the collapse of the "Iron Curtain."

State partnerships foster military-to-military, military-to-civilian and civilian-to-civilian cooperation.

SPP relationships within EUCOM have bolstered regional and theater security, stability and prosperity, Lt. Gen. Blum said. Successes include fostering conditions that have allowed SPP partners to join NATO and the European Union and delivered coalition partners for the U.S.-led war

against terrorism.

Adjutants general attending the May meeting were briefed on the updated security strategy by EUCOM commander Gen. Brantz J. Craddock.

"This partnership that the National Guard Bureau brings to European Command helps us execute our theater-security cooperation in ways that we could never touch with the other forces we have," said Maj. Gen. Frank J. Grass, EUCOM's director of mobilization and reserve-component affairs. "When the adjutants general leave here, they will understand as much about Gen. Craddock's strategy as we do — we want them to carry our message."

The National Guard works closely with other U.S. entities, including the State Department, so that SPP activities reinforce overall U.S. efforts.

"We don't do things in a vacuum," Gen. William E. Ward, EUCOM's deputy commander, told the adjutants general, emphasizing the need for coordinated U.S. efforts.

In a period of just a few weeks, a foreign nation's defense minister might be visited by a dozen senior U.S. officials from many different federal agencies, service branches and other government entities.

"We've got to ensure that the message we send is the same message," Gen. Ward told the adjutants general. "I need your help in ensuring



◀ National Guard Soldiers assigned to Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa board a Marine Corps CH-53E helicopter in Djibouti for the trip to their base camp in Ethiopia.

The National Guard in Action



that's the case."

Synchronized efforts among disparate agencies, and continuity, consistency and persistence are vital to maintaining successful international relationships, he said.

"You have a longstanding relationship, as opposed to people who are moving through a two- or three-year assignment," Lt. Gen. Blum told the adjutants general, speaking of the advantages of the SPP. "You have continuity. If there's one thing that our nation needs to do better, it is to build partnerships around the world. The most effective way we've seen to do this in the last 15 years is the National Guard State Partnership Program, because it has endured changes of administration, governments and world situations.

"We have 56 partnerships. None of them has failed. We've had rough bumps along the road from time to time, but the partnerships have endured even at times when our nations didn't get along as well as they might," he said. "There are no bounds on what the partnership can do."

Case Study: Illinois and Poland

The Illinois National Guard and Poland represent a mature SPP relationship that has benefited both partners, and seen their troops training and fighting side-by-side.

Begun in 1993, the Illinois-Poland partnership was one of the Guard's first. On average, the Illinois Guard and the Polish military conduct 10 events every year.

"Poland was one of the first eastern European countries to get into NATO," said Maj. Gen. Randal Thomas, the Illinois Guard's adjutant general. "They have been able to export stability and NATO expertise. It culminates with the fact that Poland is our second-largest ally in Iraq. When the country sent troops to Iraq more than four years ago, Polish officials

asked for Illinois Guard augmentees to be with their division."

The fifth rotation of Illinois officers and senior noncommissioned officers recently arrived in Iraq to serve for a year alongside Polish troops. And Illinois officers are preparing to augment Polish troops deploying to Afghanistan.

And the relationship is a two-way street, Maj. Gen. Thomas said, pointing out that Illinois Guard Soldiers benefited from Polish experience in peacekeeping operations in Sinai and



▲ National Guard Soldiers visit a local fruit and vegetable market near their base camp to purchase items to supplement their weekly menus.

Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"Each of the partnership nations brings something to the table," Lt. Gen. Blum said. "I don't care how small a nation it is or how different it is in geography or culture to the United States. This is a magnificent program that truly builds partnership capacity between the United States and other nations around the world."

Utah and Morocco

Maj. Gen. Brian Tarbet, Utah's adjutant general, said his state has certainly learned a lot from its partner, Morocco.

From Morocco, officials in Utah have learned techniques for dealing with pandemics, he said, and Utah special forces Soldiers have improved their understanding of how to survive in desert conditions.

"Both Utah and Morocco deal with the possibility of significant seismic events," Maj. Gen. Tarbet said. "Some of our earthquake planners have had exchanges with their earthquake planners and, frankly, we learned from them. This is a mutual exchange. This has been beneficial to the state of Utah and to the nation."


Utah's partnership with Morocco is a pioneering one, Lt. Gen. Blum said. The monarchy is in northeast Africa, one of just five SPP relationships the National Guard currently has on the continent – one that will help to chart the course for Africa.

Reaching Out to Africa

Ambassador Mary Carlin Yates, the political advisor to the EUCOM commander, said she wished more Americans understood how much the Guard is doing through its partnerships. And she urged Guard members to reach out to Africa, where she has twice served as ambassador.

"Guard members who would go and spend time in some of these African countries will come back profoundly changed," she said.

AFRICOM promises to be a different kind of command, she said, in that it is expected to incorporate both military and civilian efforts, include agencies other than the military, and emphasize humanitarian aid and conflict-avoidance, as well as more traditional combatant-command concerns.

"SPP is just such a natural fit for that," she said. 



The National Guard in Action

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS in the Balkans

Story and Photos by Sgt. Jim Greenhill

IN 1991 and 1992 artillery shells exploded inside the walls of the beautiful medieval city of Dubrovnik, Croatia, on the Adriatic Sea.

Following the fall of communism in eastern Europe, the Yugoslav federation began to fall apart and, in 1991, after Croatia declared its independence from Yugoslavia, civil war broke out between the country's Croats and Serbs.

Now, thanks in part to the National Guard's State Partnership Program, former enemies who once tried to destroy each other's infrastructure are more concerned about how to help each other should an earthquake, storm or terrorist attack threaten Croatia.

Recently, representatives from Balkan countries whose citizens were killing each other 15 years ago gathered for a regional workshop under the auspices of the National Guard's SPP.

"This is historic," said Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, "because we're taking 10 nations that in the past haven't worked well together

and helped them start a partnership for mutual security and emergency response."

In addition to Croatian officials, the SPP Regional Workshop brought together representatives from Albania, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Hungary, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia.

Representatives from those nations' partner states and territories

in the United States were also at the meeting.

"There's an opportunity here to make some very significant progress in a very short time," Lt. Gen. Blum said. "Everyone understands that we're in a very different era, and we're in a very

▼ Lt. Gen. Slavko Baric of the Croatian armed forces and LTG H. Steven Blum led representatives of 10 states partnered with Balkan countries in a May meeting in Dubrovnik, Croatia.





dangerous world in which we're better together than we are separate."

The Dubrovnic conference, which included formal meetings and informal social activities, focused on three topics:

- ***SPP, NATO membership and interoperability:***

How the SPP helps countries build and maintain military capabilities that meet NATO standards and allow participation in NATO-led operations. The SPP can help countries seeking to join NATO or the European Union.

- ***Consequence management:***

How the SPP helps countries develop military assistance to civilian authorities for disaster response or tasks such as border or port security.

- ***Going beyond the military-to-military relationship:***

How the SPP promotes civilian-to-civilian relationships, including business, education, legal, medical and science/technology exchanges.

Lt. Gen. Blum said officials in the

Balkans need their military forces to be seen as forces for good, providing a safe and secure environment for their countrymen.

"What we do in the United States with emergency assistance between states in times of need is something that we're going to share with our international partners in Southern Europe," he said.

After an earthquake — a type of disaster to which the Balkans are also prone — former enemies might find themselves having to work together, Lt. Gen. Blum said.

"These types of meetings are useful, so that emergency responders won't have to exchange business cards and work out protocols in a time of crisis. This allows that to happen ahead of time," he said.

One of the region's oldest National Guard SPP pairings matches Hungary with Ohio.

"With the SPP as a catalyst for positive change, Hungary now is a member of NATO," Lt. Gen. Blum said.

Hungary borders Serbia, one of the newest entrants to the SPP, also matched with Ohio because Ohio has a large

▲ Sprawling Camp Bondsteel is home to Task Force Falcon, Kosovo Force 8, the 29th Infantry Division Forward, and Multinational Task Force East.

population of Hungarians and includes a concentration of expatriate Serbs.

Other partner states to Balkan-region host nations are New Jersey (Albania); Maryland (Bosnia-Herzegovina); Tennessee (Bulgaria); Minnesota (Croatia); Vermont (Macedonia); Maine (Montenegro); Alabama, (Romania); and Colorado, (Slovenia).

Today, the damage from the shelling of Dubrovnik has been restored, and cruise ships once again make daily visits to the port.

"We had a very productive meeting," Lt. Gen. Blum told members of the regional media, speaking in both English and Serbo-Croatian. "Excellent results."

The workshop was immediately preceded by the U.S. European Command Adjutants General State Partnership Conference in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, a gathering of National Guard leaders from states that have partnerships with nations in the USEUCOM area of operations. [See previous story.]



Soldiers from Kentucky are greeted as heroes when they visit an Iraqi elementary school they helped bring back from the edge...

Down-Home Talkin' in Iraq

Story by Spc. L.B. Edgar

▲ Lt. Col. John Luttrell, commander of the Kentucky Guard's 149th Infantry Brigade, speaks with students in Al Rasul Elementary School in the village of Makasib. He and his Soldiers brought school supplies donated by families and organizations in the United States.

A WARM welcome met U.S. Soldiers upon their arrival in Mukasib, Iraq. Smiles replaced the once contemptuous stares of the local children and adults. And a former silence gave way to friendly dialogue.

Customary gestures of hands to hearts followed every handshake. And the Soldiers were greeted not as outsiders, but as heroes who have played a large part in creating a

Spc. L. B. Edgar is assigned to the 7th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment.

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school of joyful children.

The day was special for the students of the al-Rasul Elementary School. For the first time in a very long time, students enjoyed the fully refurbished learning facility, thanks to Soldiers of the Kentucky Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, who are assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division's 130th Field Artillery Bde.

The day was special for the Soldiers as well, said Lt. Col. John Luttrell, the battalion commander.

"You could see the smiles on their faces," he said. "For my Soldiers, seeing happy children and their parents really means a lot. The Soldiers got to see the fruits of their labors, working in the Makasib community."

"Every day we go out, we try to make a difference," he said. "What makes me proudest is going out and talking to community officials and listening to the people say how much they appreciate us."

The Guard Soldiers bring a lot of experience in working with people to the table, which benefits them in their civil-military operations and humanitarian-assistance missions, as well as simple social interactions with the local people, said Maj. Chris Cline, the battalion civil-military affairs operations officer.

"One of the things that Kentucky boys are good at is talking. That one-on-one relationship with the local Iraqis is critical, because it fosters trust among people," said Maj. Cline. "Our Soldiers are really good about interacting with Iraqi students. The Soldiers are good role models. And they have a genuine concern for the students."

The school project included addition of classrooms, remodeling existing structures, painting and constructing living quarters for the groundskeeper, Lt. Col. Luttrell said.

Additionally, Soldiers presented the school's 600 students with such school supplies as pencils, notepads and erasers, to mark the project's completion and help the students with their studies, he said.

"It's very rewarding to see the progress that is being made here," Lt. Col. Luttrell said. "We can get the people to trust us and respect us if they realize we have a true concern for them and are not just trying to get

"Our Soldiers are really good at interacting with Iraqi students. The Soldiers are really good role models."

information about targets. That trust will help bring stability to the entire area."

The school is just a small part of a larger mission to ensure stability for Makasib. Securing the town creates a blocking position to deter insurgent activity near Baghdad International Airport, Maj. Cline said.

Formerly a favorite town of the late Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, Makasib was neutral, dirty and dreary until Soldiers slowly started to make a difference in the community, Maj. Cline said.

Working with the Makasib Neighborhood Advisory Council, the first step was to clear the streets of sewage and garbage, which allowed vendors to return to the streets to sell their wares. Next, members of the locally appointed NAC decided to improve education, which led to the school project.

Now the NAC is turning its attention to bringing continuous power to the people.

Infrastructure is not the only improvement to Makasib. Security is much improved since locals started manning their own checkpoints, because there are no local Iraqi security force members in the area, Lt. Col. Luttrell said.

Since Soldiers have engaged the local people, employment is up, the economy is vibrant and the streets are cleaner, officials said.

By establishing a relationship with the local community, Soldiers have successfully encouraged the emergence of local governance, Maj. Cline said.

"People are starting to take pride in their city and they're very pleased with themselves," he said. "Now Soldiers don't have to seek out intelligence, so much as process it, because Iraqis appreciate what's happening to their towns and they're coming forward with information that can keep good things coming."

As coalition forces crack down on violence in Iraq's capital, insurgents are increasingly regrouping in less-populated areas, Lt. Col. Luttrell added. "As the insurgents are pushed out of certain areas, we don't want them to move into Makasib. Makasib doesn't want them." ❌





Iraq

Staff Sgt. Artagerges Davila, with Battery A, 3rd Battalion, 7th Field Artillery Regiment, tosses the empty shell of an M-119 howitzer round in preparation to reload during a live-fire exercise near Kirkuk. — Photo by Staff Sgt. Dallas Edwards, USAF



▲ Iraq

Warrant Officer Staceyann McNish, an allied trade technician, repairs a broken water pipe at the Karkh Water Treatment Plant in northern Baghdad. — *Photo by Spc. Jeffrey Ledesma*



▲ Iraq

A cloud of smoke and dust envelopes Staff Sgt. Michael Mullahy seconds after he fired an AT-4 rocket at an insurgent position during a firefight in Baghdad's Adhamiyah neighborhood. — *Photo by Sgt. Michael Pryor*



▲ Iraq

Soldiers secure the area surrounding a fire burning within the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, command-post area at Forward Operating Base Warhorse. — *Photo by Senior Airman Steve Czyz, USAF*



▲ Iraq

Two Soldiers and a personal security officer stand in front of a mural by a local artist depicting scenes of freedom and the historic Iraqi elections in Baghdad.

◀ Fort Dix, N.J.

Staff Sgt. Melinda Vorpahk (left), a jumpmaster with the 360th Civil Affairs Brigade, assists British paratroopers aboard a CH-47 Chinook helicopter before a jump.



Playing Cards to Preserve Antiquities

Story by Mrs. Heike Hasenauer



THE first of some 40,000 decks of playing cards — geared toward the preservation of archaeological sites in Iraq and Afghanistan — were shipped to Soldiers in-theater in August, said Dr. Laurie Rush, Fort Drum, N.Y., Cultural Resources Program manager and designer of the cards.

The Department of Defense-funded cards are part of a broader training program that includes pocket information cards and briefing materials, she said.

Much as cards helped to familiarize World War II-era troops with Allied and enemy fighter planes and, much more recently, Soldiers fighting in Operation Iraqi Freedom with the primary players in Saddam Hussein's Baathist Party, these cards will raise Soldiers' awareness of ancient sites and artifacts, thereby minimizing unnecessary damage to those sites and discouraging the illegal buying and selling of artifacts, Dr. Rush said.

Each suit in the card deck represents

a particular theme — diamonds for artifacts, spades for diggings, and hearts for "winning hearts and minds," for example.

The cards contain such valuable tidbits of information as, "Look before you dig," and "Drive around, not over, archaeological sites."

"Future generations will be thankful for the monuments and sites spared today," reads another card, which features a picture of the bent minaret of Mosul's Great Mosque.

A blue-and-white shield symbolizes a protected site, and an image of a clay writing tablet attests to the fact that such representations of the earliest writings were found on a tablet discovered in Nippur.


"Fairly or unfairly, U.S. forces have been severely criticized for their part in damaging or failing to protect cultural properties when occupying archaeologically sensitive areas in military theaters of occupation," DOD officials said.

"When I heard that U.S. military personnel were deploying to a World Heritage site — and when I heard about

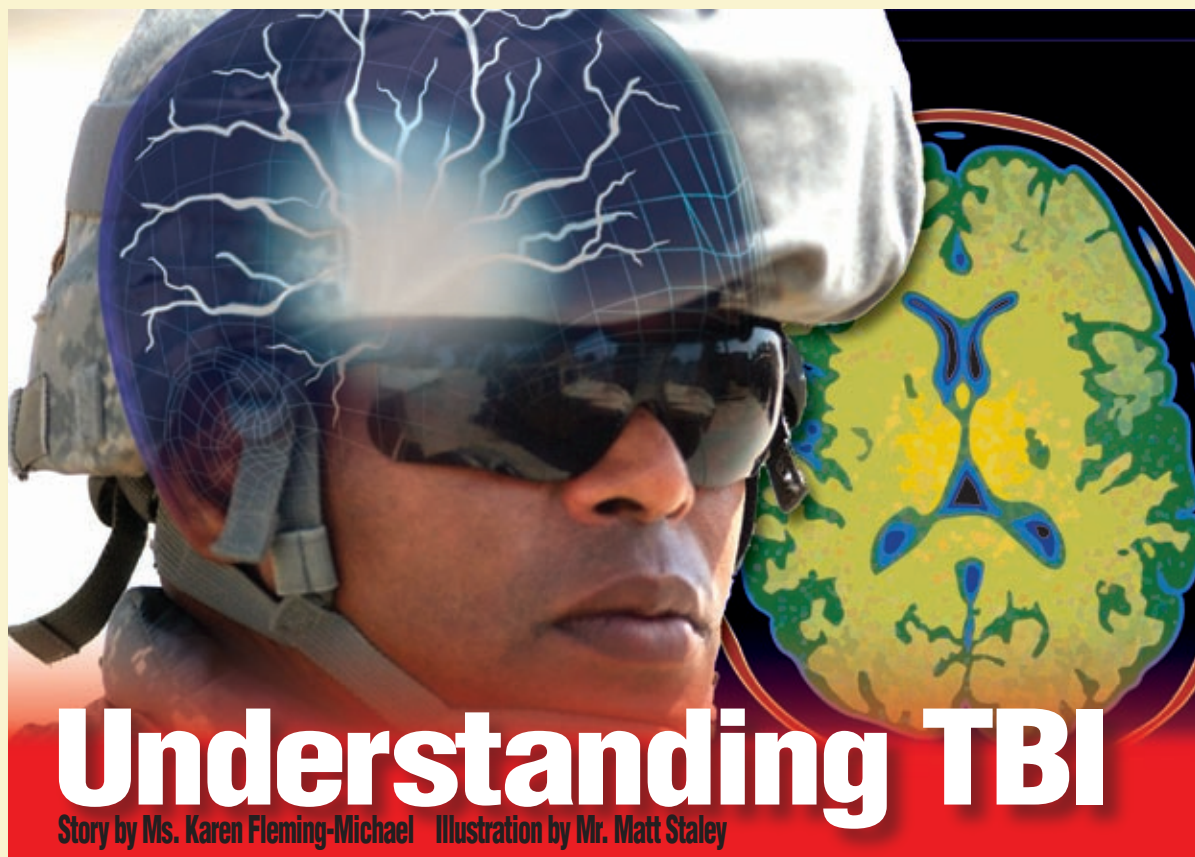
the damage done by military personnel in Babylon — I said, 'We can prevent this,'" Dr. Rush said. "I called a high school friend of mine who's an archaeologist, and he provided introductions to Middle Eastern specialists. We were then fortunate to have the talents of Dr. James Zeidler and Tracy Wagner of Colorado State University to help put all the details together in card form."

Dr. Roger Ulrich of Dartmouth College was the liaison between the Department of Defense and the classical archaeology community in the United States, including archaeologists who work in the Middle East, through the various U.S. embassies.

Earlier, efforts to educate Soldiers about cultural sites included the 2006 construction of mock cultural-resource assets in training areas, DOD officials said.

Besides the playing cards, information cards warn Soldiers about the dangers of being lured into protected areas such as ruins, cemeteries and religious buildings, which insurgents may use as firing points; about buying artifacts that help fund the insurgency; and about sightseeing, which could get Soldiers who are off guard killed, Dr. Rush said. 





Understanding TBI

Story by Ms. Karen Fleming-Michael Illustration by Mr. Matt Staley

THE Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center treats and researches traumatic brain injuries, the dominant wounds of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Headquartered at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., the DVBIC operates nine sites across the country that treat patients suffering from mild, moderate and severe TBI; develop guidelines for care; study the prevalence of TBI; and conduct research to help future patients. DVBIC officials also frequently address the difference between TBI and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

"It's impossible not to be changed by war," said Dr. Deborah Warden, DVBIC's national director. And determining what behavior is stress related and what has to do with a previous concussion is difficult.

TBIs and PTSD share such common symptoms as difficulty concentrating, memory problems and irritability. TBI symptoms can also include headaches, dizziness and balance problems. A person suffering

from PTSD may experience increasing anxiety, and may have frequent nightmares that often involve the reoccurrence of traumatic events.

Ms. Kathy Helmick, acting deputy director of Clinical and Educational Affairs at DVBIC, said diagnosis of a TBI is usually made when someone is first injured. But treatments for PTSD and TBI are the same. They include sleep, proper nutrition, and support from friends and loved ones.

Soldiers who have suffered a mild TBI must avoid a second head injury, Dr. Warden said, because, while the brain can recover from one mild TBI, two TBIs in quick succession have a cumulative effect that cannot be treated as easily with rest.


More than 35,000 servicemembers have been screened for TBIs. Roughly 11 percent of those screened had the symptoms of a mild TBI, while half had no symptoms.

According to a message the Army's Surgeon General sent to all Army commanders last July, mild TBI — also commonly referred to as a concussion — can affect operational effectiveness through poor marksmanship, delayed reaction time,

decreased ability to concentrate, and inappropriate behavior that lasts for several days or longer.

To find Soldiers who may have sustained mild TBIs, the DVBIC created a questionnaire which asks Soldiers if they were injured while deployed in a combat theater and whether they have experienced any negative mental impact, Dr. Warden said.

A similar questionnaire and the Military Acute Concussion Evaluation, a standardized mental-status exam, are used to gauge the number of Soldiers who have suffered concussions. The military also plans to include TBI-screening questions as part of the post-deployment health-assessment process all servicemembers undergo.

A study proposed in Congress would follow servicemembers with mild, moderate and severe TBIs for 15 years, to determine the long-term effects of brain injuries. Researchers are also studying anxiety and hyperactivity medications, to determine if they can benefit TBI patients, said Dr. David Moore, DVBIC's director of research. 

Ms. Karen Fleming-Michael is a public affairs officer for the U.S. Army Medical Materiel and Research Command.

Therapeutic Horsemanship

Story and Photos by Mr. Michael Norris

FORT Myer, Va., has been the site of a therapeutic-horsemanship program for Soldier amputees since May 2006.

Mary Jo Beckman, a retired Navy commander and licensed therapeutic-riding instructor with the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association, approached the 3rd U.S. Infantry (The Old Guard) at Fort Myer, and Walter Reed Army Medical Center personnel in Washington, D.C., to develop the program.

Through the program, Soldiers with disabilities can strengthen their bodies and relax their minds by riding horseback, said Ms. Beckman, who pairs the Soldiers with horses to strengthen the Soldiers' muscles and help them regain balance and confidence.

In the corral, which is used by Old Guard Caisson Platoon horses that pull the casket-carrying caisson at Arlington National Cemetery funerals, Ms. Beckman leads riders and their horses through various drills. Each is designed to focus on the Soldiers' abilities, rather than on their disabilities.

Mr. Michael Norris is the assistant editor of the Pentagonagram newspaper at Fort Myer, Va.



▲ Ms. Mary Jo Beckman, a therapeutic riding instructor, puts patients and horses through their paces in the Caisson Platoon corral.

From the center of the corral, Ms. Beckman directs the students to ride sidesaddle and backwards, clockwise, then counterclockwise, gradually picking up the pace just short of a trot. Volunteers from the Caisson Plt. keep pace with the horses, acting as spotters and engaging the riders in games of Nerf-ball tosses.

It helps that the horses — Mickey,

Minnie and Wyatt — are the gentlest mounts in the stables, Ms. Beckman said. They've all undergone special training to become accustomed to games of catch, during which objects are thrown at them.

And, judging by the broad smiles on the Walter Reed patients' faces, this form of physical therapy — hard as it might be — doesn't feel like work, she said. The cumbersome protective helmets the Soldiers wear seem to be their greatest discomforts.

"It's all about balance, coordination and stabilization of the body," said Ms. Beckman.

With the loss of a limb, an amputee has a whole different sense of balance, said Walter Reed occupational therapist Josef Butkus.

Therapy for amputees begins at the hospital and may also take Soldiers to skiing and fishing events hosted by such organizations as the Department of Veterans Affairs.

It means a lot for people to get back up and do the things they did before losing a limb, said Mr. Butkus. "The focus is on getting these people to function independently again." 📺

➤ Walter Reed patient Spc. Max Ramsey gets comfortable on a Caisson Platoon horse as part of a pilot therapeutic riding program at Fort Myer.





Earning the EFMB

Story and Photos by Mr. Arthur McQueen



NEARLY 300 Army and Air Force medics, and a Navy corpsman, recently vied for the prestigious Expert Field Medical Badge in Grafenwöhr, Germany.

Defense Department officials said earning the badge is extremely difficult. Of the 262 EFMB candidates who underwent rigorous tests in Grafenwöhr, only 26 ultimately received the badge.

Even though they knew the odds, candidates for the EFMB were eager to test themselves against an unforgiving standard, said Brig. Gen. David Rubenstein, commanding general of Europe Regional Medical Command.

The difficult and rigorous written and hands-on tests require medics to be able to perform as field medics, Brig. Gen. Rubenstein added.

"The tasks for the EFMB have changed, as the skills required of our medics have changed," he said. "Intelligence alone won't get a medic through this course. A combat medic has to have the skills to treat a Soldier, and, if necessary, the physical stamina to pick that Soldier up and take him off the battlefield."

Staff Sgt. Diana Darrell, who's assigned

Mr. Arthur McQueen works in the U.S. Army, Europe, Public Affairs Office.

to the Heidelberg Medical Department Activity, was one of 20 evaluators responsible for measuring EFMB competitors against exacting standards.

Staff Sgt. Darrell, like all EFMB evaluators, sports the EFMB badge on her own uniform.

"Those who earn the EFMB should be the cream of the crop," she said. "Because in a combat environment there's no room for error."

Week one of the event consisted of on-site training. It was the competitors' final chance to polish the skills they had been practicing, often for months, at their home stations. Then candidates faced the



◀ Capt. Alicia Hutson of Landstuhl Regional Medical Center displays her joy on completing the 12-mile ruck march, the final test for the Expert Field Medical Badge competition at Grafenwöhr.



▲ Pfc. Daniel P. Jaggie of the 123rd Main Support Battalion, in Dexheim, leads a team carrying a patient-laden stretcher underneath barbed wire amid the noise of artillery simulators and simulated hostile fire.

first graded EFMB events — a two-hour written test of 100 questions, followed by realistic hands-on tests.

Only 29 percent of EFMB candidates attain the passing grade of 75 on the written test, Army officials said.

Two days of evaluations that gauge skills in land navigation, tactical combat-casualty care and evacuation, communication tasks and warrior skills eliminated more of the candidates.

During the combat-casualty care phase of evaluations, EFMB candidates, “assaulted” by artillery simulators, mock opposing forces and multicolored smoke, are required to prioritize the care of role-playing casualties and administer life-saving techniques to stabilize patients so they can be “evacuated.”

The candidates received a “go” or “no-go” evaluation on each of their responses. On certain tasks, such as the precisely worded and timed calling in of a medical-evacuation mission, a “no-go” means an immediate dismissal.

The final test, with a three-hour time limit, was completed the next morning: a 12-mile march, in which candidates carried 35-lb. rucksacks containing their individual field equipment and held their weapons at the ready.

“Even if I don’t make it, I’m getting some great training out here,” said Pfc. Amanda Hopkins of Medical Troop, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment.

“This is so important, because as a field medic, the skills I’m being tested on here are skills I’ll be using downrange,” she said.

Brig. Gen. Rubenstein said Soldiers injured on today’s battlefields have high survival rates, partly because of their protective gear, but largely due to the medical support they receive.

The medical personnel and procedures used by the services “are all of the highest order,” he said. “We have better survival rates today than at any time in the history of the United States because of these people and procedures; 97 percent of Soldiers who are wounded come off the battlefield and go back to their families.” 🇺🇸

On Being a “Brat”

Story by Ms. Rachael Tolliver

IN the early 1990s Donna Musil, a labor lawyer turned writer, was surfing the Internet and came across a Web site about kids she had gone to school with while she was in Korea. Her father had been in the Army and her family moved a lot.

“It was exciting,” she said. “I contacted some of the kids, and we

Ms. Rachael Tolliver is the associate editor of the Fort Knox, Ky., “Turret.”

had an impromptu reunion, but it was then that I realized who I was.”

She said the reunion gave her answers to questions and nagging doubts she had had for years. So she started developing a movie script to document who she is and where she came from.

Ms. Musil is one of millions of Americans who are known as “military brats” — children who grew

up on U.S. military bases and posts and sometimes struggled to fit into a society with which some brats have little in common.

Her father was stationed at Fort Knox, Ky., in the mid-1970s, where he was a military attorney and judge.

Ms. Musil has told the story of the little-known subculture of military brats in a documentary she called “Brats: Our Journey Home.” It was a seven-year labor of love, she said. The documentary was shown recently at the historic State Theater Complex in Elizabethtown, Ky.

She made the movie with the help of a crew of military brats, to let other brats know they belong to a unique subculture of America and that they aren’t alone.

“It’s a documentary, not an exposé or a recruiting film,” she said. “Some of the things brats face when they get out into the ‘real’ world are different from what nonmilitary kids leaving home and entering college or the workforce face. There are so many common threads for us, like



◀ Donna Musil, seen here (at left) as a teen-aged Army “brat” living in Korea, wrote and directed the documentary film “Brats: Our Journey Home.”

for the money, but the sense of mission,” Ms. Musil said. “But, in the real world people are motivated by money, and that can be hard to take. In the military, things are basically black and white, but the real world is full of gray areas.”

Singer-songwriter-actor Kris Kristofferson, who was an Air Force brat, a former Army helicopter pilot and Rhodes scholar, narrates the film and allowed the project to use his

as an Army brat and the father of brats.

Other people introduced in the film are average people who represent a wide area of America. The common thread for all of them is the experience of being a military brat, and the way that has shaped their lives. But there are other connecting threads.

“Some brats don’t collect anything, and don’t ever unpack things because they think, ‘What’s the point?

don’t throw anything away,” said Mrs. Musil.

For producer Tim Wurtz, a brat who also spent some time in the Army in the early 1970s, the movie is about telling other brats they have a home, too, and it’s in people, not places.

“Because of the way we grew up, we are disassociated with geographic locations,” he said.

According to Mr. Wurtz, leav-



▲ Michele Green (at left) who’s featured in the documentary, spent several years of her childhood at Fort Knox, Ky. Here she enjoys a Sunday outing with a fellow “brat.”



▲ During the first Gulf War Army “brats” could be seen at virtually every Army installation worldwide, showing support for the Soldiers who were deploying to, or returning from, the war zone.



▲ Though living in foreign countries, Army “brats” stay in touch with American culture through such things as school and sporting events.

ing the military culture after growing up in it and stepping into the “other” world, can be a shock.

“When I came Stateside to go to college, I was at a loss. I had never come in contact with rich people. And I have spoken with other brats who have had the same experience. I didn’t know how to use a pay phone, because I never needed to use one — that was before cell phones were available.

“When I walked into a supermarket with my cousins I automatically

pulled out my ID card, but there was no one to look at it, so I quickly put it away. I had never walked into a supermarket and not needed to show my ID,” Mr. Wurtz added.

But Mr. Wurtz, who earned a degree in international studies from the University of Denver, and has written and produced various feature films and TV movies, said growing up in the military had its advantages. “It was a more structured way to grow up. I knew what to expect. The people changed, but the environment didn’t.”

By moving around the country and traveling overseas, military children learn that there is more to

the world than America. They tend to develop a sense of community from being around the military.

For all the differences between growing up in the military verses in the civilian world, Ms. Musil said it’s been her experience that there’s very little discussion about the lifestyles and feelings of brats.

Saying goodbye to friends, family, coaches, the reputation one develops at a particular school — all of these things are very traumatic, she said. “The minute you get everything all built up, you lose it all again.”

But she has discovered through question-and-answer sessions at screenings of her documentary, and through e-mails and letters, that the

By moving around the country and traveling overseas, military children learn that there is more to the world than America.

▶ Though “brats” tend to move around a lot, school events and such special occasions as graduation ceremonies help build bonds that last a lifetime.

film is opening dialogue between military children and their parents.

"It helps the rooted and uprooted to connect," she said. "If you didn't move around, and your kids do, then you don't understand why they think the way they do or do the things they do. If you did move around as a kid, and your kids don't, then you don't understand why they think the way they do, or do the things they do either." 📺

For more information about Ms. Musil's documentary, visit www.bratsfilm.com, or www.bratsourjourneyhome.com.

THE FIRST DOCUMENTARY ABOUT GROWING UP MILITARY

BRATS

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AIDE

for All Seasons

Story and Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Roger Jones

PKing Crab, garlic pureé potatoes, bacon-wrapped asparagus, a seasonal fruit salad with raspberry and poppy seed dressing and a molten lava cake is something Sgt. 1st Class Andre Rush — the senior enlisted aide to the U.S. Military Academy superintendent, Lt. Gen. Buster Hagenbeck — could virtually do in his sleep, he said.

“I learned to cook by watching and helping my mom,” Sgt. 1st Class Rush said. “As a country boy growing up in Mississippi, I wasn’t exactly

Sgt. 1st Class Roger Jones is the NCOIC of the USMA Public Affairs Office.



what you would call a gourmet cook, but I could make southern food taste good. Now, not only can I make it taste good, but I can make it look pretty good as well.”

While he’s become quite the established chef, preparing extravagant meals was neither his first love nor his first choice when he decided to enter the Army.

“I wanted to be a combat graphic artist. However, that career field was unavailable at the time I enlisted, so I made my second choice my first. Luckily for me, that was definitely the right decision,” he added.

“I was a young cook, working in a field dining environment at Fort Stewart, Ga.,” Sgt. 1st Class Rush

said. “One day, my dining facility manager came out of his office and asked if anyone had any ice-carving experience. I had never done anything even remotely close to ice carving, but I somehow knew that was going to be my opportunity to shine. So, I volunteered.”

It appeared to be a good idea at the time, he said. There was just one, small problem; he had never carved a statue from a piece of ice before. And he’d never before used a chain saw — something he had to learn quickly to complete the carving.

Despite his lack of chain-saw experience, Sgt. 1st Class Rush finished carving a bald eagle about an hour and a half after he’d started the project.

He’s now considered to be the Army’s premier ice sculptor, but that’s only one of his talents, he said.

“I’ve covered a great deal of ground since that ice-carving incident,” he said. “I’ve been extremely lucky career-wise. I’ve met presidents of the United States and worked as an executive chef to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the secretary of the Army.

“But coming to the U.S. Military Academy to serve as the senior enlisted aide to Lt. Gen. and Mrs. Judy Hagenbeck has been one of the most



▲ Staff Sgt. Kalena Kraft, the superintendent's junior enlisted aide, prepares salads for a recent event.

rewarding parts of my career thus far,” Sgt. 1st Class Rush said.

“Working here is quite a challenge,” he said of duty at the superintendent’s 16,000-square-foot West Point home. “They entertain guests frequently. As a result, this place is always hopping.

“You have to be prepared for just about anything. Fortunately for me, I don’t have to prepare for the guests alone,” he said. Staff Sgt. Kalena Kraft, another enlisted aide, and I run a tight ship. We plan continuously to stay ahead of the game.”

The Hagenbecks find Sgt. 1st Class Rush’s talents indispensable.

“He’s a very talented and gifted individual,” Mrs. Hagenbeck said.

“We’re extremely fortunate to have him on our team.

“Overseeing the quarters of the USMA superintendent is a huge responsibility, and he does it seamlessly,” she added.

“Not only is Sgt. 1st Class Rush a very accomplished chef and artist, but his organization and people skills are impeccable,” Mrs. Hagenbeck said. 🍷

▲ Sgt. 1st Class Andre Rush checks the grilled chicken as it warms before adding it to a Caesar salad he prepared for the West Point Women’s Club.



▲ Chief Warrant Officer 4 Robert Sparks (left) works with Sgt. 1st Class Rush on one of the many ice sculptures the team designed for the All-American Bowl festivities.



MIA Search on Iwo Jima

AN investigative team from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command has returned to its home at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, following a 13-day mission to search for the Marine combat cameraman who filmed the famous scene of Marines raising the American flag on Iwo Jima in World War II.

Marine Sgt. William Genaust was killed in March 1945 on the island (now called Iwo To), near a tunnel that later collapsed. He died only days after he shot footage of victorious Marines raising the American flag on Feb. 23, 1945 on top of Mount Suribachi.

The iconic still photo of the same scene was taken by Associated Press photographer Mr. Joe Rosenthal, and was replicated at the Marine Memorial in Washington, D.C.

"We conducted the investigation to map and survey the southwest side of Hill 362A and to find the location that matches the 'circumstances-of-loss' records," said Maj. Sean Stinchon, team leader and officer in charge of JPAC's Worldwide Analysis and Investigations division. "We were attempting to find the site that contains the remains of an unaccounted for American after we'd exhausted all of our historical research efforts here at JPAC. The next logical step was to send a team to Iwo Jima to investigate the hill.

"We didn't know what to expect when we got to Hill 362A," Maj. Stinchon said. "Historical records indicated that Sgt. Genaust was killed in a large cave on the southwest side of the hill, so that was our focus area. Additionally, we were looking for areas that had collapsed or caved in. We had a map drawn by a Navy engineer after the battle that showed all of the known tunnel and cave networks on the hill, and used that to orient ourselves to the terrain.

"We found two sites on the southwest side of Hill 362A that were not mapped by the engineers," Maj. Stinchon said.

The team's final reports have to be evaluated by the command before a decision to excavate or to continue investigating is made.

The United States returned Iwo Jima to the Japanese in 1968. Today, some 13,000 Japanese

soldiers listed as missing in action after the battle have still not been accounted for, Maj. Stinchon said.

For more on JPAC, visit www.jpac.pacom.mil
— JPAC Public Affairs Office



Seeking Out PTSD, TBI Symptoms

THROUGH mid-October Soldiers will receive information through a chain-teaching program that will help them and their families identify the symptoms of, and tell them how to seek treatment for, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and mild Traumatic Brain Injury.

"We emphasize that every commander needs to be able to do an individual assessment of each Soldier," said Col. C. Elspeth Ritchie, psychiatry consultant to the Army's surgeon general.

All Soldiers in combat suffer stress, but most recover quickly. Those whose symptoms persist may have PTSD.

PTSD and mild TBI are medical and psychological conditions that can negatively affect a Soldier's personal life, professional abilities and health. Soldiers may be affected by only one or both conditions at the same time.

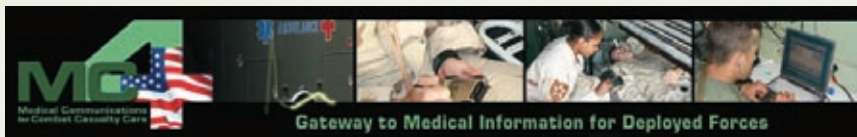
The chain-teaching program does not replace behavioral-health assessment tools already in effect. Rather, it provides command emphasis and education at unit and Family levels to reinforce the Army's commitment to provide the best health care possible.

The program equips Soldiers to recognize PTSD and mild TBI symptoms in others, as well as in themselves.

The training encourages Soldiers to realize their careers are endangered not when they seek help for their problems, but when they allow a mental-health condition to worsen without proper care.

"This is an attempt to shift the culture," Col. Ritchie said. "We know it will take time, but we need to act now."

— *Army News Service*



New System Tracks Patient Care

THE U.S. Expeditionary Medical Facility-Kuwait will become the first deployed hospital to receive records of the treatment in-patients received on the battlefield.

Deployed medical providers will be able to send in-patient healthcare information to a central data repository in the United States, where it can be viewed from

anywhere in the world.

The Army's Medical Communications for Combat Casualty Care program will field the system and later train EMF-Kuwait commanders and staffers on how to use the Theater Medical Information Program Composite Health Care System.

— *ARNEWS*

For more information, visit www.mc4.army.mil.



\$1 Million Prize for Wearable Power

DEVELOPERS have until Nov. 30 to register for the Defense Department's "wearable power" competition, which challenges participants to lighten warfighters' loads.

The goal is to reduce to about 2 pounds per day the weight of the power system that drives radios, night-vision devices, global positioning systems and other combat gear, including a recharging system, said Mr. William Rees, deputy undersecretary of laboratories and basic sciences.

Prizes of \$1 million, \$500,000 and \$250,000 will be awarded in November 2008.

"If someone thinks their technology will work, we're not prejudiced about the origin of it," Mr. Rees said. "We just want to lighten the load for folks in uniform."

Entries are expected to run the gamut. Mr. Rees said he envisions creative ways to generate power on the battlefield, from solar generators to devices that capture the power created when a Soldier's boot hits the ground.

"We want a prototype," he said. "We want something that is a little bit more than your standard duct tape and baling wire, but it is still a prototype. It doesn't have to be a finished system, but it has to demonstrate what we need it to do."

Information about the technical details, contest rules and qualification requirements is posted on the Defense Department Web site, at www.dod.mil/ddre/prize.

— Mrs. Donna Miles,
American Forces
Press Service



MRAP Funding Nears Approval

DEFENSE Secretary Robert M. Gates asked Congress in July for approval to transfer nearly \$1.2 billion to the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle program to get an estimated 3,500 of the vehicles to Iraq by the year's end, Department of Defense officials announced.

The funds, to be added to almost \$4 billion already programmed for MRAPs this year, will speed up the timetable for getting deployed troops the best armored vehicles possible, said Mr. John Young, director of defense research and engineering and chairman of DOD's MRAP task force.

By reprogramming an additional \$1.2 billion to the program, the department can sign contracts for an additional 2,650 MRAPs, Mr. Young told Pentagon reporters. This will bring the department's total MRAP order to 6,415.

Nearly three-quarters of those MRAPs are slated for Iraq, he said.

Factoring in the time required to equip those vehicles with communication equipment and other gear, and to deliver them to the theater, Mr. Young estimated that about 3,500 of the MRAPs would be in Iraq by Dec. 31.

— Mrs. Donna Miles, AFPS



Extended Family Readiness Support

THE Army's Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command is expanding the Family Readiness Support Assistant program to reach battalion level, Army-wide, to support deployed Soldiers and their families.

"We're not inventing anything new here. We're taking something that works well and expanding it, providing a uniform level of support to Soldiers and families Armywide," said Brig. Gen. Belinda Pinckney, FMWRC commander.

The plan calls for an end-state of as many as 1,100 FRSAs throughout the Army, placing a support assistant in each deployable battalion, brigade, division and corps headquarters. The FRSAs will hold Army civilian positions at the GS-6 level.



Examples of the duties include assisting with the preparation of predeployment and redeployment activities; scheduling and coordinating family readiness or unit-sponsored training; assisting in developing and distributing unit newsletters; coordinating video teleconferences for families and deployed Soldiers; and serving as a link between garrison community agencies and the unit.

"This is such a difficult time for our Soldiers and families," said Mrs. Delores Johnson, director of family programs at FMWRC, the lead agency in overseeing the expansion of the FRSA program. "We know FRSAs have had an incredible impact at the brigade level, and are thrilled at the opportunity to provide that level of support and assistance to the battalions."

— Bill Bradner

MyMEB Tracks Medical Evaluation Process

INJURED Soldiers whose military futures are being considered by medical evaluation boards will soon have a means to track the MEB process and ensure information accuracy through the MyMEB page on Army Knowledge Online.

The MyMEB site went live June 15 in a limited release designed

to solicit feedback from a focus group of injured Soldiers before full release.

"This will provide Soldiers with an easy tool to view the progress of their own boards," said Mr. Michael P. Griffin, deputy director of U.S. Army Medical Command's Patient Administration Division.

MEBs are conducted at medical-treatment facilities to determine if injured Soldiers meet the medical-retention standards specified in Army Regulation 40-501, "Standards of Medical

Fitness." MEBs differ from physical evaluation boards, which are conducted by Human Resources Command to determine if Soldiers can continue to serve and, if they cannot, to determine which disability benefits they may be entitled to.

Located at www.us.army.mil/suite/page/417118, MyMEB automatically downloads information from the MEB Internal Tracking Tool database with a Soldier's matching Social Security number.

— Jerry Harben

Sharp Shooters



Racing remains one of the nation's most popular spectator sports, and Army-sponsored teams and drivers continue to attract attention at events around the country. Here, we bring you images of Army teams in action.





- ▶ Reigning 2005 Mrs. Virginia and Army Capt. Rose Lopez-Keravuori stands with the members of the Army NASCAR team on pit road in Martinsville, Va., to render honors to the nation just before the start of the DIRECTV 500 race.

— Lt. Col. William Thurmond

- ▶ Driver Antron Brown's helmet sits on his bike before his first and only race at the Torco Racing Fuels Route 66 NHRA Nationals in Chicago.

— Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Duran

- ▶ The Army pit crew hustles during a four-tires-and-fuel stop midway through the Samsung/Radio Shack 500 NASCAR event at Texas Motor Speedway.

— Lt. Col. William Thurmond

- ▶ Don Schumacher (right), racing legend and team owner, looks on as Army pro-stock motorcyclist Angell Sampey prepares to make a qualifying run.

— Lt. Col. William Thurmond





Postmarks

From Army Posts Around the World



Kenyans Tour Specialty Schools

Fort Benning, Ga.,

KENYAN troops recently toured several specialty schools at Fort Benning, Ga., to learn how to start such schools in Kenya.

Kenyan soldiers visited the airborne, jumpmaster, pathfinder, drill sergeant and NCO-development schools.

The visits were part of the Third Army/U.S. Army Central's Theater Security Cooperation program, which hosts foreign troops and sends Soldiers to participating countries to interact with their counterparts.

Third Army conducts TSC activities in 24 countries to help partner nations strengthen their defense relationships and participate in coalition operations.

— Staff Sgt. Mark Watson,
129th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment

Trust Restored at Walter Reed

Walter Reed Army Medical Center

ARMY Maj. Gen. Eric B. Schoomaker has restored the trust of patients and energized staff members in the Washington, D.C., facility, the Defense Department's top health official said recently.

Dr. S. Ward Casscells, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs, said the general's successes prove the Army medical system is ready. He lauded Maj. Gen. Schoomaker for increasing the number of case managers for injured Soldiers, improving quality-of-life initiatives and creating the Warrior Transition Brigade to ensure the needs of wounded Soldiers and their families are met.

Dr. Casscells also noted that Maj. Gen. Schoomaker streamlined processes for case managers and physical-evaluation board liaison officers. He expressed confidence that the surveys and telephone hotlines in place for Walter Reed Army Medical Center personnel will continue to improve processes there.

— Sgt. Sara Wood, American Forces
Press Service

Alaska Shield/ Northern Edge '07

Seward, Alaska

MEMBERS of a National Guard civil support team recently boarded the USNS *Henry J. Kaiser* in biohazard suits to investigate a simulated report of suspicious chemicals, during an exercise scenario for Alaska Shield/Northern Edge 2007.

The civil-support team worked in conjunction with the Seward police and fire departments, the U.S. Coast Guard, the FBI, and other organizations to practice interagency coordination in an emergency situation.

AKS/NE '07 is a state of Alaska and U.S. Northern Command-sponsored homeland-defense and defense-support-of-civil exercise.

— Petty Officer 1st Class Daniel
N. Woods, USN



USACE Makes Archaeological Find Nome, Alaska

AN excavation by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Alaska District archeologist Margan Grover proves that Eskimos were in the Nome area 300 years earlier than once thought.

A pottery cup and a small carved figurine were among the artifacts found at the Snake River sand pit.

A construction contractor, working on a USACE project to improve navigation at the Nome harbor, exposed a semi-subterranean house in 2005. The artifacts will be displayed in the Carrie M. McLain Memorial Museum in Nome.

— Pat Richardson, Army Corps of Engineers' Alaska District Public Affairs Office



Right Pilot, Right Aircraft Fort Rucker, Ala.

A NEW computer-based test, the Track Assignment Classification Tool, will replace the Army's traditional order-of-merit aircraft-selection process and help the service determine which aircraft and missions best suit particular aviators.

"The whole idea is that this should increase individual pilots' job satisfaction, because we're

placing them where they best fit, based on their skills, abilities and personalities," said research psychologist Dr. Larry Katz.

He said that assigning individuals to the aircraft and mission type for which they're best suited could help improve the retention rates for aviators.

— Molly Miller, Fort Rucker PAO



Training To Defeat IEDs

Fort Irwin, Calif.

MEDICS from the 3rd Infantry Division's 2nd Battalion, 69th Armored Regiment, encountered a simulated vehicle-borne IED as they trained at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Soldiers learned the tactics, techniques and procedures for defeating IEDs in preparation for deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan, said Defense Department officials.

Other training centers that teach Soldiers the dangers of IEDs and how to safeguard against them are located on the Marine base in Twentynine Palms, Calif., at a Navy facility in Indian Head, Md., and at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas.

— Jennie Haskamp, Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization



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Ten-Miler TUNE-UP

Story by Ms. Roxana Hovey

REGISTRATION for the 2007 Army Ten-Miler closed in a record 42 days after sign-up for the event began in April, said race director Jim Vandak.

Some 26,000 people are expected to participate in the race on Oct. 7 in Washington, D.C. Nearly 6,000 people registered for the event on the first day of registration, and online registration continued at a frenzied pace, Mr. Vandak said.


The race is sponsored by the Association of the U.S. Army and other organizations, including KBR Government and Infrastructure, a contract agency that provides construction management, engineering and other services to military and civilian clients worldwide.

The 23rd-annual race starts and finishes at the Pentagon and passes such national landmarks as the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument and U.S. Capitol.

"We're pleased to see that demand continues to grow for this premier running event," Mr. Vandak said. "Last year, 97 percent of our runners rated the race as 'good' or 'excellent,' and we look forward to providing our 2007 runners with another fantastic race-weekend experience."

This year's Ten-Miler attracted participants from all 50 states and 12 countries. Runners are expected to come from as far away as Finland, Germany, Ireland and South Korea. Over 558 teams from around the world will compete for top honors in 25 divisions.

For race results, training tips for future races and other related information, visit www.armytenmiler.com.

Proceeds from Army Ten-Miler events support morale, welfare and recreation programs. 

Ms. Roxana Hovey works for the U.S. Northern Command Public Affairs Office.





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